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To: Owen, Jenni [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2282b573e68d40b38bf110b1530db523-jowen2]
Subject: [External] Pipeline

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Ms. Jenny Owen,
Director of Policy
Office of the Governor

Dear Ms.Owen,

I noted that the NC Council of Churches offered its perspective on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline to Governor Cooper today and I am generally supportive of that position.

I'm a retired meteorologist (Air Force and National Weather Service) so I've been thinking about weather and climate for a long time. On the one hand, I consider natural gas (methane) as an improvement over petroleum and coal if we are ranking the negative impacts of fossil fuels. On the other hand, it would be best if we could make a firmer commitment to renewable energy (basically wind turbines and solar power); i.e., embrace the future. I've seen a lot of wind turbines in Europe in recent years; in fact, Denmark is now able to obtain all of its energy needs from wind turbines.

Here in North Carolina, a few wind turbines have appeared. The Sierra Club's magazine for November/December 2017 has an article "Hogs, Grain, and Wind" by Horace Pritchard, a farmer in Pasquotank County." Mr. Pritchard writes about his positive experiences with wind turbines on his land.

I've seen advertisements on television recently in which North Carolinians express their hope that the pipeline will result in an economic boom for their areas. I grew up in rural Georgia a long time ago and I remember the petroleum pipeline that came across our country (about 300 yards from our house). I don't remember any significant negative impacts (of course, no one worried about greenhouse gases in the 1950's), and after the pipes were laid, life returned to normal, neither significantly better nor worse. I hope North Carolinians don't get their hopes too high; perhaps I'm too pessimistic, but I doubt that rural areas of eastern Carolina will see any substantial positive impact.

Do we really need the pipeline? Do we really need petroleum drilling off our coastline? Isn't it time to embrace the future? I'm giving a presentation on climate change at the Cary Senior Center next week; there seems to be more interest in the topic nowadays.

Best wishes,

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